

**NEW MEXICO RIDGE-NOSED RATTLESNAKE**  
**(*Crotalus willardi obscurus*)**

**STATUS:** Threatened (43 FR 34479, August 4, 1978) with critical habitat.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** Small (30-61 cm (12-24 in) long), secretive, grayish-brown rattlesnake with a distinct ridge on the end of its snout. The upper surface has obscure, irregularly spaced white cross bars edged with brown in a dull pattern.

**HABITAT:** Found among rocks, bunchgrass and leaf litter in steep rocky canyons in the pine-oak and pine-fir belts at 1,680-2,700 m (5,600-9,000 ft) elevation.

**RANGE: Historical:** Limited areas in northern Mexico, extreme southwestern New Mexico, and extreme southeastern Arizona.

**Current:** In New Mexico, the ridge-nosed rattlesnake is found only in the Animas and Peloncillo mountains of Hidalgo County at elevations above 1,680 m (5,000 ft). The subspecies also occurs in the Pelloncillo Mountains of Arizona. Populations also exist in the Sierra de San Luis in northwestern Chihuahua/northeastern Sonora, Mexico.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Over-exploitation by collectors, and habitat loss and alteration. The subspecies was historically limited in range and never very common.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest; Bureau of Land Management, Safford District.

**NOTES:** A Recovery Plan was completed in March 1985 and is available online at:  
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/RidgenoseRattlesnake.pdf>

Critical habitat has been designated in a portion of Hidalgo County, New Mexico.

A related subspecies, the Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake (*C. w. willardi*), is listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.

Population status is now listed as improving.